

Shedden Women's Institute holds Christmas meeting

Connie Silcox welcomed members of the Shedden Women's Institute to her festively decorated home for the December meeting. President, Jean Palmer opened the meeting with the Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect followed by a humorous Christmas reading. The roll call was answered by sending a card or getting in touch with a friend you haven't been in touch with for a while. Items for Christmas Care were collected.

Secretary, Dorothy McLaughlin read several thank you's from recent donations. It was once again decided to support a project through "Save the Children." A donation was also given to the Women's Institute Headquarters fund in Guelph.

The Personal Enrichment Seminar will be held at Southwold Public School on February 2. Sharon Welch and Carol Gordon volunteered to staff the Elgin Manor Tuck Shop in

January.

Connie Silcox began the Christmas Program with a humorous reading - 'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa is a wreck. . . Sharon Welch and Connie led in the singing of several Christmas songs including Silver Bells, Silent Night and Jingle Bells. Several contests were enjoyed, both related to the Festive Season. Sharon instructed all in making a wooden angel, complete with wings and halo. All were able to take home a new Christmas ornament for their tree.

Seasonal squares and cookies were enjoyed around a candle-lit table. Carol Gordon thanked Connie, Sharon and Margaret Campbell for planning the Christmas evening. The next meeting will be held at Bethany United Church on January 28th, at 7:30 p.m. Cindy Smith, the co-ordinator of Second Stage Housing will be the guest speaker.

Second Stage Housing topic at Shedden W.I.

Donna and Christina of St. Thomas-Elgin Second Stage Housing were the guest speakers at the January meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute. Located in St. Thomas, Second Stage Housing was developed to meet the needs of women and children who have survived abuse. It services all of Elgin County and the City of St. Thomas.

The 12-unit apartment complex (furnished) offers a supportive environment for women, with or without children, who are leaving, or have recently left, an abusive relationship. The length of stay depends on the needs of the women, but could be up to eight months with possible extensions. A woman (and her children) can go for help herself, or be referred by the Crisis Shelter, the Health Unit, police or clergy. In order to qualify for the program, women must be committed to living in a violence-free, co-operative environment. Women must also agree to participate in the program.

Programs for women involve individual counselling, group counselling, support, advocacy, referrals, safety planning, recreation, goal setting, education, networking and parental support. Programs for children involve advocacy, referrals, recreational and social development groups, individual counselling, safety planning and liaison with schools.

Funding was cut off by the government in 1996. Major

fundraising began and is still a very vital part to the existence of this building and program. Some rent is collected and they are now a United Way Agency however, \$67,500.00 must be raised this year. There is a real need for this program as the building is generally filled and there is a waiting list. Anyone interested in helping in any way, can call Second Stage Housing between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Beth Vicary thanked the ladies for their presentation and gave them a monetary donation and some items that could be used at the complex.

Jean Palmer, president, opened the meeting with a poem from the "Friendship Book" of Francis Gay. The roll call was answered by naming an article in your house that was Canadian-made and a donation to the Second Stage Housing.

Dorothy McLaughlin, secretary, read several Christmas letters and thank you notes from past donations. A letter was read from Warden Harry Mezenberg in reply to the concern for keeping the Shedden Library open. A motion was made to give \$1200.00 to an Institute in Quebec to be distributed for disaster relief caused by the ice storm.

Carol Gordon gave the museum report saying that they are looking for volunteers. She also reported for the Welcoming Committee informing the group that three new families have moved into the

Shedden area.

The convenor for the evening, Lois Oldham, presented a timely reading on "Our attitude" before lunch and a social time was enjoyed. Jean gave the courtesy remarks to Lois and her committee, Beth Vicary and Pat Palmer.

The next meeting will be held on February 25th, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Connie Silcox with Peter Greuel, Chef extraordinaire of Fanshawe College, as guest. All are welcome.

CARD OF THANKS

A sincere "Thank You" for the cards, phone and verbal 45th Anniversary greetings. With the store anniversary, Christmas and our wedding anniversary, we've had three months of celebrating. 1953 was a year of several weddings in this area, so "best wishes" to all the other couples in '98.

Ralph and Jean Palmer

CARD OF THANKS

The McFeat family would like to thank Walt Thibodeau and the Dutton & District Lions Club for the presentation of the Helen Keller Fellowship award in memory of Forrest. He would be very honoured to receive this prestigious award. Our family hopes to carry on his tradition of service to the community of Dutton/Dunwich.

Ruth, Brenda and Stuart

COMMUNITY

Delicious topic for Shedden WI

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — International Affairs convener, Connie Silcox, welcomed members of the Shedden Women's Institute to her home for the Feb. 26 meeting.

Delicious scents wafted through the airs as "chef extraordinaire," Peter Greuel of Fanshawe College gave a cooking demonstration and commentary.

Mr. Greuel showed us how to prepare spinach and cheese omelets which are made of feta cheese, garlic and spinach which is rolled into a wedge shape using phyllo. Next, an In-

donesian dish of ginger root, shrimp, garlic and pineapple was enjoyed.

While preparing the dishes, Mr. Greuel spoke of his trip to Germany, to the World Culinary Olympics. Mr. Greuel accompanied six Fanshawe students who were entered in the event. Competitors cannot be older than 23. They must prepare 100 portions of any given meal which is chosen by the Germans. You do not know ahead of time what the meal will be. There are eight judges. The competition ended with a "silver" place finish for the Fanshawe team and an amazing indoor fireworks display con-

cluded the event.

Mr. Greuel has begun cooking classes at the Southwold Keystone Complex in Shedden on Monday and Thursday evenings. If interested please phone 764-2588. Dora McArthur thanked Mr. Greuel for the delicious new recipes and his entertaining commentary.

President Jean Palmer opened with a reading entitled "Important Words." The six most important words, I admit I made a mistake. The five most important words, You did a good job. The four most important words, What is your opinion. The three most important

words, If you please. The two most important words, Thank You. The least important word, "I."

The roll call was answered by naming a favorite international dish. Correspondence included a letter from Save the Children and a letter informing us of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario Conference to be held in Belleville at the Loyalist College on July 3, 4, 5.

Those volunteering to go on the nominating committee were Brenda Silcox, Lois Oldham and Dora McArthur. A motion was made and carried, to tell the Southwold Complex board that the Women's Institute would

prefer a non-smoking building.

Pauline Silcox and Carol Gordon offered to work in the Elgin Manor Tuck Shop. There will be a Judges School for the fairboards on April 7 and 8 at the Wallacetown hall.

Carol Gordon reported for the welcoming committee informing members of two new residents who have moved into Shedden. Lois Oldham reported from the Elgin Manor Auxiliary. They are running short of bud vases. Flowers are placed in them and presented to any new residents who come to the Elgin Manor.

Parent Find helped speaker end search

SHEDDEN — The guest speaker for the March 25 meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute was Mary Ellen Gagnier.

She told of the steps she took to find her birth mother. With the support of Parent Find, the search took two and a half years with a successful reunion. Pauline Silcox thanked Mary Ellen for sharing this experience and her personal story with us and presented a gift of appreciation.

President, Jean Palmer, opened the business part of the meeting with the motto: "It can't be done," they said, "And you might as well admit it." So she tackled the thing that couldn't be done — and she did it. The roll call was answered by — Something you have done that has taken perseverance.

In her district report, Lois Oldham informed members that National Volunteer Week is from April 18-25. In Elgin West, there are 11 branches and

160 members. Boxall will host the district annual meeting May 13, 9:30 a.m. at Fingal United Church.

Dora McArthur explained her latest Tweedsmuir Project. She has taken pictures of all the properties in Shedden and is in the process of listing all their present and previous owners.

Brenda Silcox presented the nominating committee report for the 1998-99 year.

A tasty lunch was served by the committee, Mrs. Silcox, Cheryl Garvin and Pauline Silcox. Pat Palmer gave the courtesy remarks.

Curator Dora McArthur presented a history of Shedden and area at the April 22 meeting at Bethany United Church.

Women's Institute members review Shedden history

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN - Dora McArthur, Shedden Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History curator, gave her annual presentation to members at the April 22 meeting.

In the form of a quiz, members learned of these interesting facts about Shedden.

Shedden was previously known by three other names, Shaw's Corners, Wilkies corners and Corsley.

Now, it is named after cartage agent and railway promoter, John Shedden.

The railway went through Shedden in 1872. Running through Shedden, Highway 3 was first paved in 1925.

The Shedden Women's Institute was instrumental in having the caution light installed at the main four corners.

The school (now the Tea Room) was built in 1866, and the present bank was built in 1951.

In September 1952, the fairgrounds began functioning at its present location (formerly being located on Francis Street).

The post office had been in three other locations, and the library had been in four other locations, before their present dwellings.

The D.A. Monteith Medical Centre was opened on Dec. 20, 1986.

Many businesses were once located in the village including a pickle factory, a lumber yard, several garages, several hardware stores, a tailor shop, insurance shop, furniture store, barber shops, pool hall, black smith shop, fu-

neral parlor, telephone office, carriage factory, beauty salon, and TV repair shop.

Ms McArthur has updated the copies of the Tweedsmuir History books at the library.

Anyone can go to the library and take a look through these books — you might be surprised to find that you are included in one of the articles.

Currently, she is working on the histories of every home in Shedden. She has taken a picture of each dwelling and will include the history with each picture.

President Jean Palmer opened the meeting with the poem "Daffodils." The roll call was answered by using the letters S-H-E-D-D-E-N and composing a seven word sentence about it.

The Elgin Manor Tea will be held on May 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Also on May 6, the Kensington Club Tea at 7:15 p.m. with Diane Couse and the guest speaker. The district annual meeting is on May 13 at 9:30 a.m. at the Fingal United Church.

Lois Oldham performed the installation of officers for the 1998-99 year. Annual reports were given by the secretary, Dorothy McLaughlin; treasurer, Pauline Silcox; Tweedsmuir History curator, Dora McArthur; welcoming convener, Pat Palmer.

■ The next meeting will be held at Bethany United Church on May 27 at 7:30 p.m. when members will be learning the art of candlemaking.

Making of Beeswax candles at Shedden Women's Institute

The May meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute was held at Bethany United Church on May 27th, with vice-president Carol Gordon presiding.

The meeting was opened with the Institute Ode, followed by the Mary Stewart Collect. Roll call, "What would you like to achieve in 1998," was answered by 10 members and three guests. Minutes of last month's meeting were read and approved; also the treasurer's report and correspondence given.

Tickets for the Daffodil Auxiliary and Strawberry Social were distributed.

Connie Silcox reported on the Kensington Club Desert Tea, stating a very enjoyable evening and a good attendance.

Carol reported for the museum. She stated they are celebrating 150 years for the museum, also the Strawberry Social will be held June 24th at the museum, and Middlemarch Garden Tour is on June 28th.

Jean Palmer reported on the District Annual held at Fingal United Church. She informed the group that the new name for the East and West amalgamation is Elgin County District Women's Institute.

Volunteers, to help at the Strawberry Social, are to be situated in the Colonel Talbot Room of the museum.

Brenda Silcox and Connie Silcox were to organize volunteers for the institute booth at Rosy Rhubarb June 13-14th.

Dora McArthur, Tweeds-

Mr. Shedden. The village of Shedden was named for a John Shedden.

Carol introduced Sandra Slegers from the Craft Tree in St. Thomas. Sandra spoke on the making of Beeswax candles. She stated there are different types of wax sheets, honey comb, corrugated and plain. After a short demonstration, everyone had a chance to try their hand at making a pair of tapered candles.

A small token of appreciation was presented to Sandra, followed by lunch served by Carol, convenor, and her committee.

Connie thanked Carol for the entertaining and interesting evening.

Shedden WI members ready to help at fair

BY PAT PALMER

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

The June meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute was held at the home of Pat Palmer.

Ten members and one visitor answered the roll call: A way in which we can have a healthy outlook on life. Many positive answers were heard. The motto was: Encouragement is a gift that I can give.

Pat Palmer introduced the guest speaker, Alan Hughson from Williams Funeral Home. He spoke on our attitude and how important it is. There are many ways to be happy and he reminded us of many. Be positive and take time for others by helping those in need. Life doesn't come with guarantees and we must never quit trying. Help others deal with a problem they have, especially if you've dealt with something similar. We all need to be needed so try to say something positive to people each day.

Mr. Hughson spoke about working with children and that we should always take time to listen when they need us. Beth Vicary thanked Mr. Hughson for sharing his thoughts with the mem-

bers.

Sharon Welch opened the meeting with a poem entitled Bob and I followed by the Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect. The minutes and treasurer's reports were given. Brenda Silcox thanked the members for helping with various jobs on Rosy Rhubarb weekend.

Members helped in the information booth as well as sell jam to help raise money for the weekend.

Jean Palmer reported on the strawberry social held at the Elgin Pioneer Museum. Elgin Manor volunteers for July and September were Kay Chamberlain, Jean Palmer, Pauline Silcox and Carol Gordon.

Shedden Fair Committee was chosen to plan for the fair being held Aug. 14 and 15. Committee is Jean Palmer, Sharon Welch, Connie Silcox and Brenda Silcox. The members work with the help of the Shedden Bethany UCW.

The meeting closed and a lunch was served by Dora McArthur, Beth Vicary and Pat Palmer. Courtesy remarks were given by Sharon Welch.